

OLD TOWN NEWS

CITY EVENTS, CITY COUNCIL, DEPARTMENTS, COMMITTEES,
AND MUNICIPAL CODE INFORMATION

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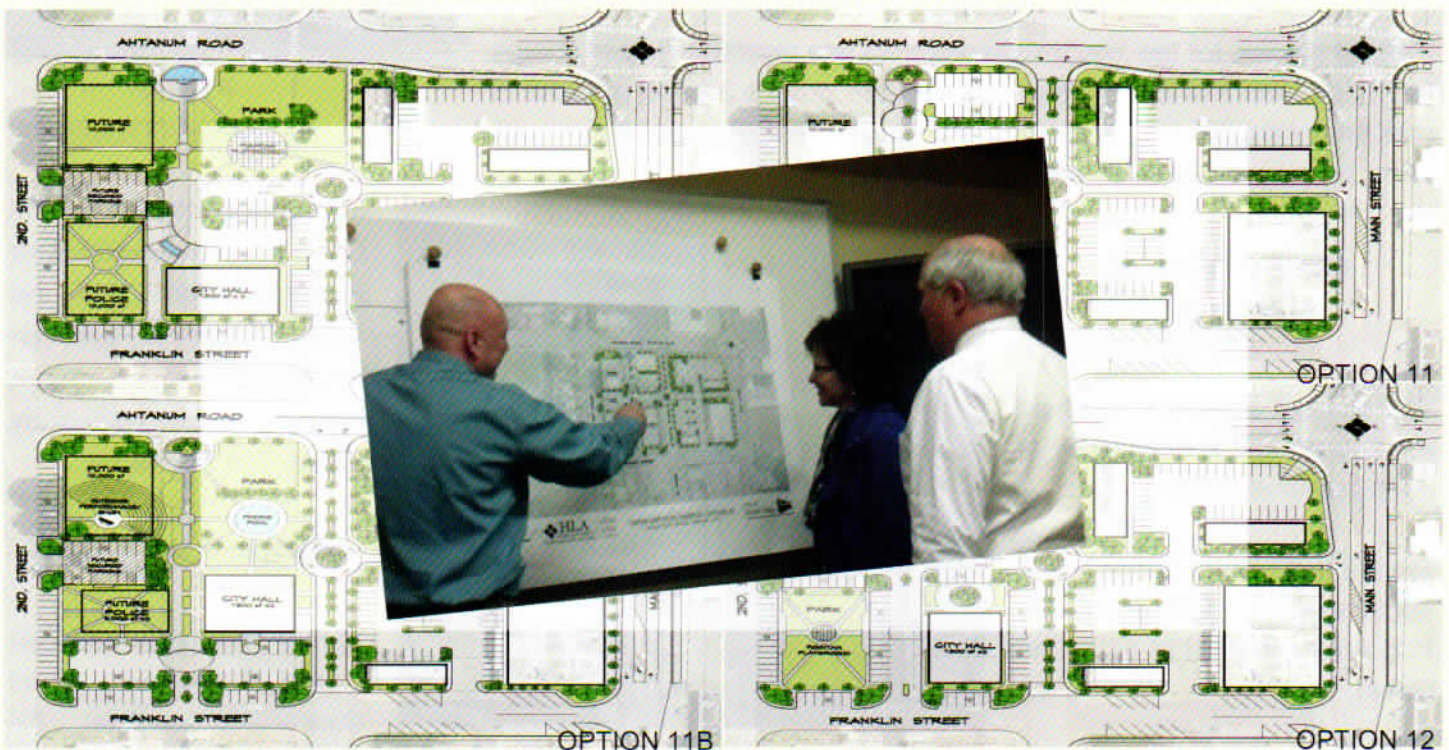
SPRING 2015
VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1



YOU'RE INVITED!

You're invited to a **public forum from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015 at St. Joe's Bingo Hall**. The Union Gap City Council hopes to create a more identifiable and inviting downtown that is easily accessible and navigable by all means of transportation. In addition to planned improvements to Main Street, the City Council has been studying redevelopment of the two-block campus bounded by Main Street to the east, Ahtanum to the north, Second Street to the west, and Franklin to the south.

The Sister Rebecca Foundation, which operates St. Joe's owns the easterly of the two blocks and the city of Union Gap owns all but one lot on the westerly block. Together they are studying options for redevelopment on these two blocks and are seeking input from the public.



Architects Russell Thomas and Sheri Brockway and City Engineer Jeff Louman (left to right above) have developed a variety of options for downtown. Those options will be on display at the public forum scheduled to begin at **6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2015 at St. Joe's Bingo Hall**. Architects and city staff will be available to answer questions and collect ideas and suggestions from forum participants. Free food and refreshments will be available for all who attend!

JUNE 20 & 21 ~ OLD TOWN DAYS ~ JUNE 20 & 21

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Old Town Days will be here before we know it! Volunteers are needed to help organize kids activities - as well as this fantastic event. Call Paul at 457.8735 to get involved with this great annual community event!



CONTEST WINNERS: The City of Union Gap Lodging Tax Advisory Committee asked the City to better promote the City as a venue for weddings and other events.

The City offered a free venue as part of a contest to promote the Ag Museum and the Youth Activities Park as venues. The winners of the "Free Wedding Venue" contest are Gabriela Tinajero & Rigo Dominguez.

Their wedding will be held at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum during the Old Town Days celebration and their reception will be at the Activities Building.

The Activities Building and Barn are popular venues for weddings, receptions, reunions, quinceaneras, meetings and many other events.

FREE PARKING PASSES

Parking passes for the Youth Activities Park are available free of charge for Union Gap residents. Please bring your drivers license or proof of residency into City Hall to receive your pass. *One pass per household, valid for one year from the date of issuance.*

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

City Council Meetings are held the second and forth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Please feel free to attend these public meetings held in the City Hall Annex located at 3103 2nd Street.

Citizen participation is always encouraged; any contribution or feedback you have is appreciated.



Chief Bob Stewart awarded citizen Barbara Bryan with a Life Saving Award during the February 23rd City Council meeting for successfully conducting CPR and resuscitating John Long.



Winning Couple - Gabriela Tinajero & Rigo Dominguez.



PARK RESERVATIONS

Information regarding the City's park reservations at Fullbright Park and the Youth Activities Park can be found on our website; by going to City Hall; or by calling 509.248.0432.

XPRESS BILL PAY

Xpress Bill Pay provides *Fast*, *Secure* and *Convenient* online bill payment solutions. Now you can process your utility bill payment online anytime, anywhere you have Internet availability.

2015 UTILITY RATE INCREASE

Effective January 1, 2015 utility customers will notice an increase in water, sewer, and garbage rates. The City of Union Gap tries to hold utility rate increases to 2% per year to keep up with inflation.

This year, as part of its partnership with Terrace Heights Sewer District, and the City of Yakima, the City will increase sewer costs by 15.4%. The increase will allow more funding to be set aside for capital needs for future maintenance and upgrades at the Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Plant is located along I-82 south of K-mart, treated wastewater from the plant discharges directly into the Yakima River, so it's important to keep it operating efficiently.

The sewer rate for a residential customer will go up by \$5.54 per month. Water and garbage rates will go up by 2%. Even with the increase, Union Gap will still have lower utility rates than most cities in Yakima County. Your council members are working for you!

Average monthly residential utility billings of cities within Yakima County:

Toppenish	\$ 149.95	Zillah	\$ 109.73
Sunnyside	\$ 147.64	Naches	\$ 107.40
Tieton	\$ 147.04	Yakima	\$ 106.19
Granger	\$ 143.29	Selah	\$ 102.77
Grandview	\$ 142.21	Harrah	\$ 91.20
Mabton	\$ 140.71	Union Gap	\$ 82.40
Wapato	\$ 124.67	Moxee	\$ 78.25

YARD WASTE PICK UP

The Public Works Department will pick up your bagged yard waste, weighing less than 40 lbs through April 30.

Basin Disposal will pick up beginning May 1 thru November 30 - after which Public Works continues doing so.

Please contact the Public Works Administration office at 225.3524 to schedule a pick-up.

ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

Mark your calendar! The Annual "Spring Clean Up" Program is scheduled for:

**Saturday, May 9, 2015
8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

This program is sponsored by the City of Union Gap and Basin Disposal. The parking lot site locations are as follows:



City Hall / Fire Station @ 107 W. Ahtanum Road
Ray's Wholesale Meats @ 2112 S. 3rd Avenue
Cahalan Park @ 2100 South 18th Street

This FREE service is for Union Gap residents only; please be prepared to show proof of residency at the disposal sites. The sites are for yard waste only; if your yard waste is bagged, you will be asked to remove the bags prior to dumping into the disposal containers.

We would like to encourage disabled residents and senior citizens to contact the Public Works & Community Development Department to schedule a pick up of your bagged yard waste.



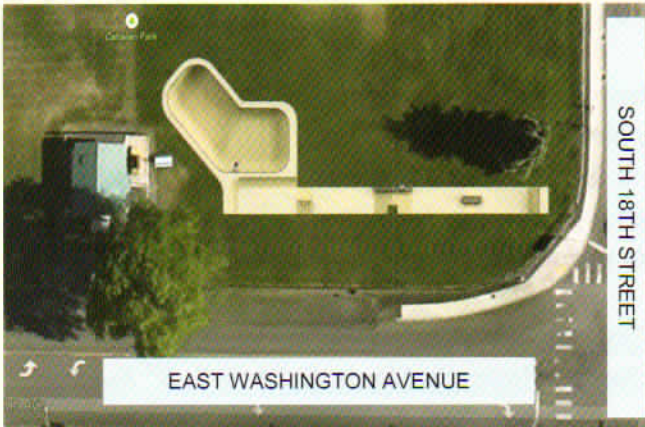
WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- Shortening showers by 1-2 minutes will save water and money.
- Turning off the water while washing your hair will save water.
- Use drip irrigation or soaker hose when possible.
- Use mulch to retain moisture around plants.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SKATEPARK

Goal
\$145,000

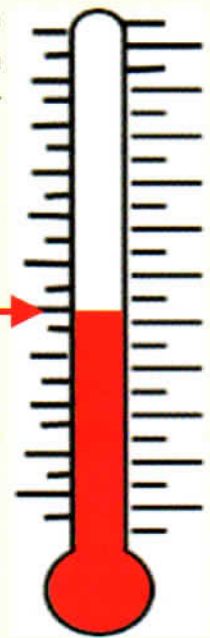
Thank you to all who have donated to the new Union Gap skatepark to be constructed in Cahalan Park at the corner of East Washington Avenue and 18th Street adjacent to Martin Luther King School. Donations of any amount are still needed. Kids need an outlet for physical and emotional energy so they can grow up to be productive adults.



To donate, please send
your check to:

**City of Union Gap
Skatepark Fund
107 W. Ahtanum Road
P.O. Box 3008
Union Gap, WA 98903**

Raised
\$62,501



Thanks again to all who have donated:

MIRIAM AVLON	BELL, BROWN & RIO PLLC	JULIAN MARQUEZ	RANKIN EQUIPMENT	KIM WILLIAMS
ANONYMOUS	DIANA CUEVAS	AM/PM MINI MART - UG	MICHAEL PICARD	TONY SANDBERG
KYLE BURLINGAME	ANONYMOUS	HELEN HOVIS	ROBERT McRAE	YAKIMA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOC.
CASCADE VALLEY LUBE	ANONYMOUS	ILDIA HEITZMAN	NINO'S MEXICAN GRILL	PAT SUNDBERG
DAVE BUTLER	PAYAL BHAN	SERGIO MARMDEJO	MICHAEL MURR	THERESA VITELLO
LYNETTE BISONER	JOANNA VASQUEZ	UNION GAP LIONS CLUB	JON NELSON	BONNIE WALKER-ZIEGLER
LOU ANDERSON	OLD COUNTRY BUFFET	AMANDA LONGEE	QUALITY WATER SYSTEMS	ROGER WENTZ
ANONYMOUS	ROGER GUTTIERREZ	DENNIS HENNE	DEREK ROY	TRISTEN VITELLO
LUKE DAVIS	DAISY HUNTER	TIBURCIO MACIAS	FRANCES POWERS	DOUG SIRES
AMERICAN INSURANCE	IVA FOREMAN	KIM FORD	ROD OTTERNESS	PAUL STRATER
KAREN CLIFTON	LILY HUNGERFORD	BLU FAULKNER	JOSHUA MURR	AUSTIN SPARKS
EDDY, RANDY	JEANNIE KOSIK	TOM HILL	BREANNA ROBBINS	KALYB SPARKS
SALLY ANDERSON	IMPACT CONSTRUCTION	JAMES MURR	LORENZO REZA	CASEY WARD
CHRIS DAHL	BETTY HILYARD	JEANENE SUTTON	TRACY RICHARDS	GLORIA WALTMAN
JOSH BROWN	JONATHAN ESQUEDA	LARRY MILLER	KELLY NEDEFF	STATE HIGHWAY CREDIT UNION
CADEN	JORDAN GRIFFITH	WANDA PHILLEY	LYNN RICHTER	TONY SUNDBERG
JACOB CARTER	MARILO R.	SARAH McINTYRE	JOSHUA McCain	ADAM SOELBERG
JASON CAVANAUGH	ANDREW EGGER	BILL PHILLEY	CAROL MAYDEN	TOBY WENTZ
CAMERON CHARLEY	TERESA LOPEZ	MICHELLE RAGLAND	JOYCE NELSON	KATHY WIELKIEWICZ
ANONYMOUS	CRISTIAN MARTINEZ	SERENA PHILLIPS	VICKY McINTYRE	BRADYN SPARKS
RICH BRIGHT	ASHLEY FAULKNER	DAVE NEWTON	SKATELAND FUN CENTER	WILSON ORCH.& VINEYARD SUPP.
HEATHER BEEBE	MARIA	MARIA MARTINEZ	DANIELA TORETO	SHANE SEALE
BETY	KELLYE HOLDER	TRENTON McKELHEER	MERRILL SEPULVEDA	HEIDI SANTA CRUZ
LISA EDDY	RICK JOHNSON	KASSIT RISLEY	JULIANA SUTTON	DAVID SPURLOCK
TIM CARTER	TIM KILGREN	CYNTHIA MARTINEZ	MISTY WARD	EAGLE MACHINE
ANDREA BUCIO-PANTOJA	JO LINDER	JOHN RICHTER	JENNY VALLE	SCOTT KOKENGE
JEFF AYRE	KAZ TROPHIES	PATSY ROY	MIKE STILLWAUGH	ARCELIA PLAZOLA
DON DURKEE	GRSS FAMILY	DAVE MATSON	RON SABARI	BURLINGTON COAT FACTORY
HOGLIA CISNEROS	KURT HILYARD	MARY RICHTER	SHYLA	CASCADE LICENSE AGENCY
DWAYNE McINTYRE	KARL HENDRICKS	OLD TOWN PUMP	BILLY ZWEOWAT	GREG COBB
JOSE CISNEROS	STEVE HILL	HELIANNA PICARD	SABARI ENTERPRISES	

If you have anything you would like to see in future newsletters or comments regarding these publications please contact Jo Linder, Newsletter Editor, at jlinder@cityofuniongap.com or call 509.225.3524.

FIRE & LIFE SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Following more than a year of analysis and planning, Union Gap Firefighters and Yakima Firefighters join forces beginning January 1, 2015.

Benefits include cost savings by reducing redundancies and enhancing the depth of emergency service capability for both Yakima and Union Gap.

One of the benefits of the merger will be the resumption of fire & life safety inspections for businesses and multi-family housing. These are important to help ensure the safety of all who live in, work in and visit Union Gap.

Inspections also play a key role in improving property insurance ratings. The Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB) is a source of property underwriting and rating information for the insurance industry. They periodically rate the City's ability to provide fire suppression and protection. The City's WSRB rating effects the insurance rates our business and property owners pay each year. Annual fire & life safety inspections for business and commercial properties are necessary to help ensure a favorable rating. Business owners and multi-family housing managers can anticipate a visit from a fire inspector to make sure these properties are safe.

If you have any questions about annual fire and life safety inspections in Union Gap please contact Deputy Fire Chief Mark Sopotich at 575.6060.



Rod Otterness, Jason Cavanaugh and Yakima Fire Code Inspector Steve Manske discuss the Fire & Life Safety Inspection Program.

NEW CITY EMPLOYEE

Hi! My name is **Jason Cavanaugh**. I was born in Eugene, Oregon but I have lived in Washington since I was 11 years old; and to the dismay of many people, yes, I am a Duck fan!



My wife, myself and our children, moved to the Yakima Valley from Black Diamond in February of 2010. We love living here for the many outdoor activities the valley offers as well as the sun! I began serving Union Gap on September 1st as your new Building Inspector & Code Enforcement Officer. I am grateful for the opportunity, and hope to serve the community of Union Gap well!

GRAFFITI REMOVAL

With the nicer weather and longer days, we tend to see an increase in the amount of graffiti around town.

The best deterrent to graffiti is to remove it as soon as it goes up. Vandals want to see (and want others to see) their work. If their graffiti gets removed as soon as it's done, they are less likely to put it back in the same location. The City has partnered with Yakima County Drug Court since October 2012 for removal of graffiti.



This service is free to residents, but painting is limited to the color available at time of removal. The removal crews will not match colors; if you are concerned about the color, then you will need to remove and/or cover with matching color at your own expense.

If you have any questions about the program or would like to report any graffiti in your neighborhood, please contact the Union Gap Code Enforcement Department at 575.3638.

CITY OF UNION GAP
107 W. AHTANUM ROAD
P.O. BOX 3008
UNION GAP, WA
98903-0008

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GENERAL INFORMATION

WEBSITES:

~ Published on a quarterly basis to
keep citizens informed ~

- City Business: www.cityofuniongap.com
- Union Gap Tourism: <http://visituniongap.com>
- Xpress Bill Pay: www.xpressbillpay.com

107 WEST AHTANUM ROAD

City Hall	248.0432
Fire	575.6060
Park Reservations	248.0432
Treasurer / Clerk	248.0432
Utility Billing: Water, Sewer & Garbage	248.0434

3106 FIRST STREET

Building / Planning	575.3638
Code Enforcement	575.3638
Public Works	225.3524
Newsletter	225.3524

1800 RAINIER PLACE

Animal Control	248.0430
Crime Prevention	457.5927
Police	248.0430

1000 AHTANUM ROAD

Senior Citizen Center	248.2668
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TOURISM & TRANSIT

Tourism Promoter	575.8770
Union Gap Transit	574.8000
Union Gap Transit TTY	574.6926

MAYOR & COUNCIL

Council Members

Position #1
Chad Lenz ~ 965.3364

Position #2
Mark Carney ~ 969.6833

Position #3
Dan Olson ~ 453.4310

Position #4
Dave Butler ~ 452.8631

Position #5
Dave Matson ~ 453.3098

Position #6
James Murr ~ 823.4686

Mayor / Council Member

Position #7
Roger Wentz ~ 575.3799

CITY STAFF

City Manager
Rod Otterness
248.0432

*Director of Public Works &
Community Development*
Dennis Henne
225.3524

*Director of Finance &
Administration*
Karen Clifton
248.0432

Acting Public Safety Director
Greg Cobb
248.0430

City Attorney
Bronson Brown
628.4700